

THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A structured cabling system comprising at least two ~~first and second~~ patch panels each having a plurality of jacks, an indicator means associated with each jack, each said indicator means being operable by an applied signal to provide a signal which identifies the jack associated with that indicator means, and at least two contacts provided in each jack which, in use, are bridged by a contact provided on ~~the~~a plug when ~~it~~the plug is connected to the jack so as to complete an electrical circuit, thereby providing an electrical indication of the presence or absence of a plug connected to the jack.

2.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A structured cabling system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~each jack has a split can having two parts which are electrically isolated from each other, the contact provided on the plug electrically contacting said two parts upon insertion of the plug into ~~the~~a jack so as to electrically connect said two parts and thereby complete a detector circuit connected to said two parts of the can.

5. (Previously Presented) A structured cabling system according to claim 1, wherein said indicator means provides a visual signal which identifies the jack associated therewith.

6. (Previously Presented) A structured cabling system according to claim 5, wherein the indicator means is a light source.

7. (Currently Amended) A structured cabling system according to claim 1, further including continuity checking means associated with each jack, which, in use, operates to confirm full connection between a jack in ~~one—the first~~ patch panel and its associated jack in the ~~other—second~~ patch panel.

8. (Currently Amended) A structured cabling system according to claim 1, further including processor means operable to provide ~~a—said—an~~ applied signal to said indicator means in a sequence so as to identify ~~the—a~~ patching sequence for effecting connections between the ~~two—first and second~~ patch panels.

9. (Previously Presented) A structured cabling system according to claim 8, wherein said processor means actuates said indicator means in a sequence which identifies pairs of jacks into which, in use, opposing ends of a patch lead should be connected.

10. (Previously Presented) A structured cabling system according to claim 8, wherein said processor means actuates indicator means alternately on said first patch panel and said second patch panel so as to identify, in sequence, a jack on the first patch panel followed by its associated jack on the second patch panel.

11. (Previously Presented) A structured cabling system according to claim 8, wherein said indicator means are operable only one at a time, and said processor means is connected to said sensor means, each said

indicator means being operated until said sensor means of the associated jack is triggered, at which time the next indicator means in the sequence is operated.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of providing connection between a plurality of jacks provided on at least two patch panels, comprising the steps of providing a structured cabling system as defined in claim 1, and actuating each indicator means in a sequence which identifies pairs of jacks into which the two ends of a patch lead are to be connected in order to effect a connection between said first and second jacks.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein said indicator means are actuated to identify one pair of jacks at a time.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein said indicator means are actuated one at a time so as to identify a single jack at a time, the indicator means of pair jacks being actuated one after the other.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, comprising the further step of detecting the presence or absence of plug collected to each jack.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, comprising the further step of creating a record of the insertion and/or removal of a plug from a jack.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, comprising the further step of carrying out a continuity check between each pair of jacks when a plug has been detected as being connected to each jack of the pair.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, comprising the further step of creating a record of the results of the continuity checks carried out on the pairs of jacks.

20.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, comprising the further step of programming processor means with an actuation sequence for the indicator means, connecting the processor means to the structured cabling system, and operating said processor means to run said sequence.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, comprising the further step of using said processor means to create the or each record and validating the or each record with the actuation sequence of the processor means to confirm the patching operation has been carried out correctly.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein each said indicator means can be actuated to indicate that a plug connected to a jack should be removed.

26. (Previously Presented) A jack for a structured cabling system according to claim 1, comprising a body having a first plurality of contacts therein which, in use, connect with contacts on a mating plug for transferring data to a cable attached to said plug, and at least two further contacts which are electrically isolated from each other, said at least two further contacts, in use, being engaged by at least one bridging contact formed on the mating plug in order to effect an electrical connection between said cans, the jack, in use, having an indicator means associated with it.

27. (Previously Presented) A structured cabling system according to claim 6, wherein said light source is a light-emitting diode.